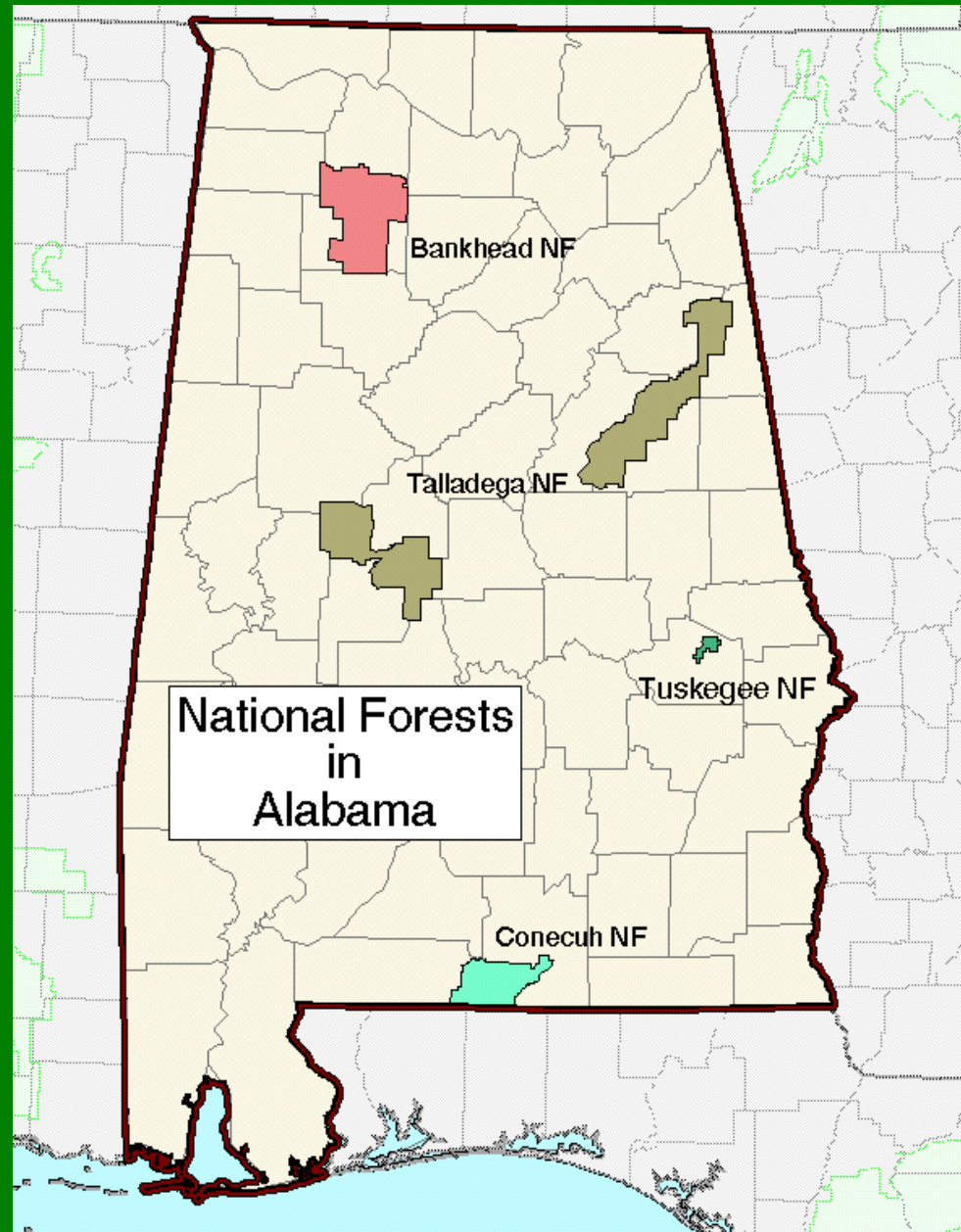


National Forests in Alabama



- Four National Forests,
- Managed in 6 units or
Ranger Districts,
- Totaling over 669,000
acres of Public Lands



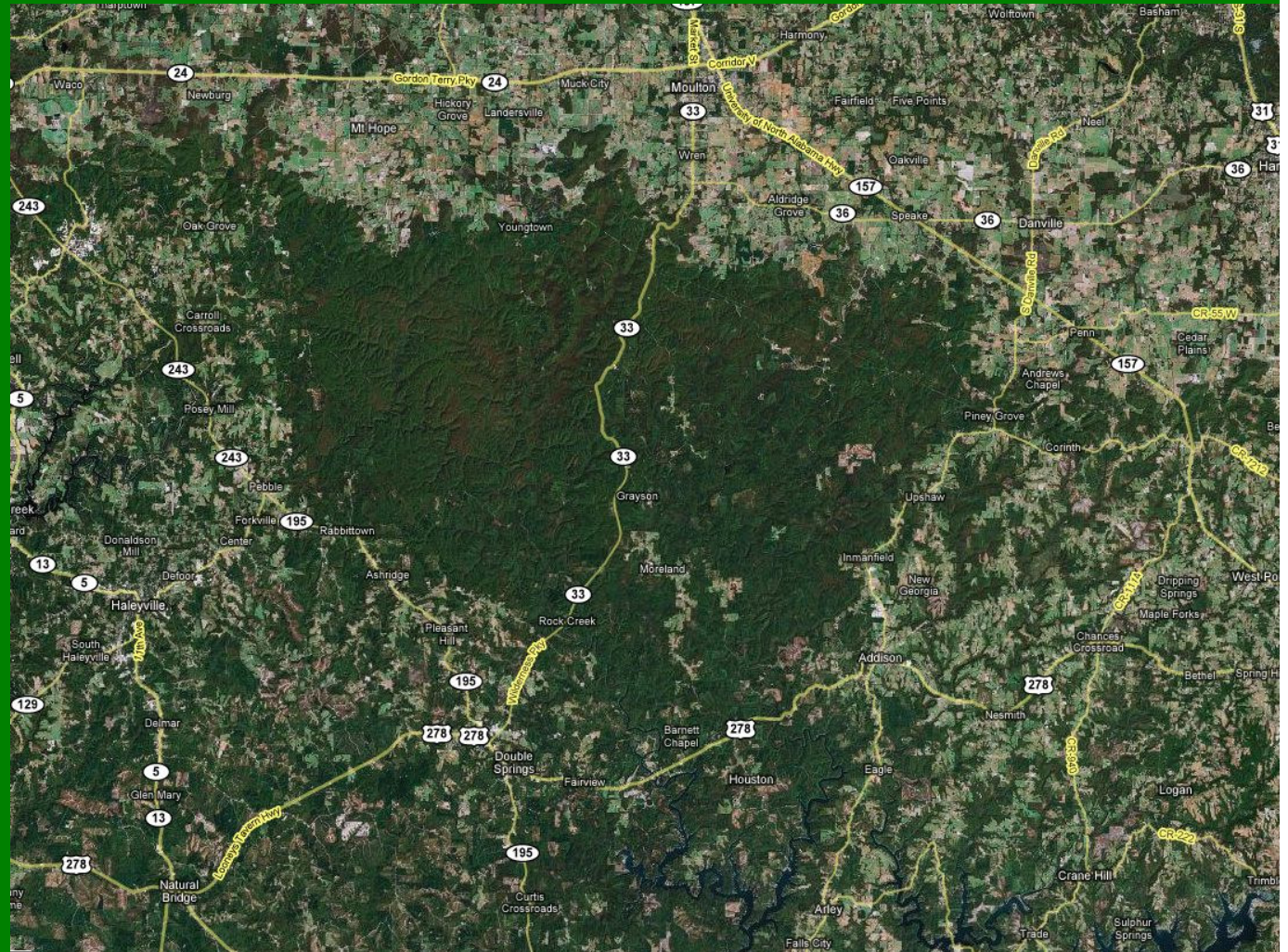
Bankhead National Forest



- 182,000 acres
- Southern Cumberland Physiographic Region

General Forest Cover

- Hardwoods
- Loblolly, Longleaf, Shortleaf Pine



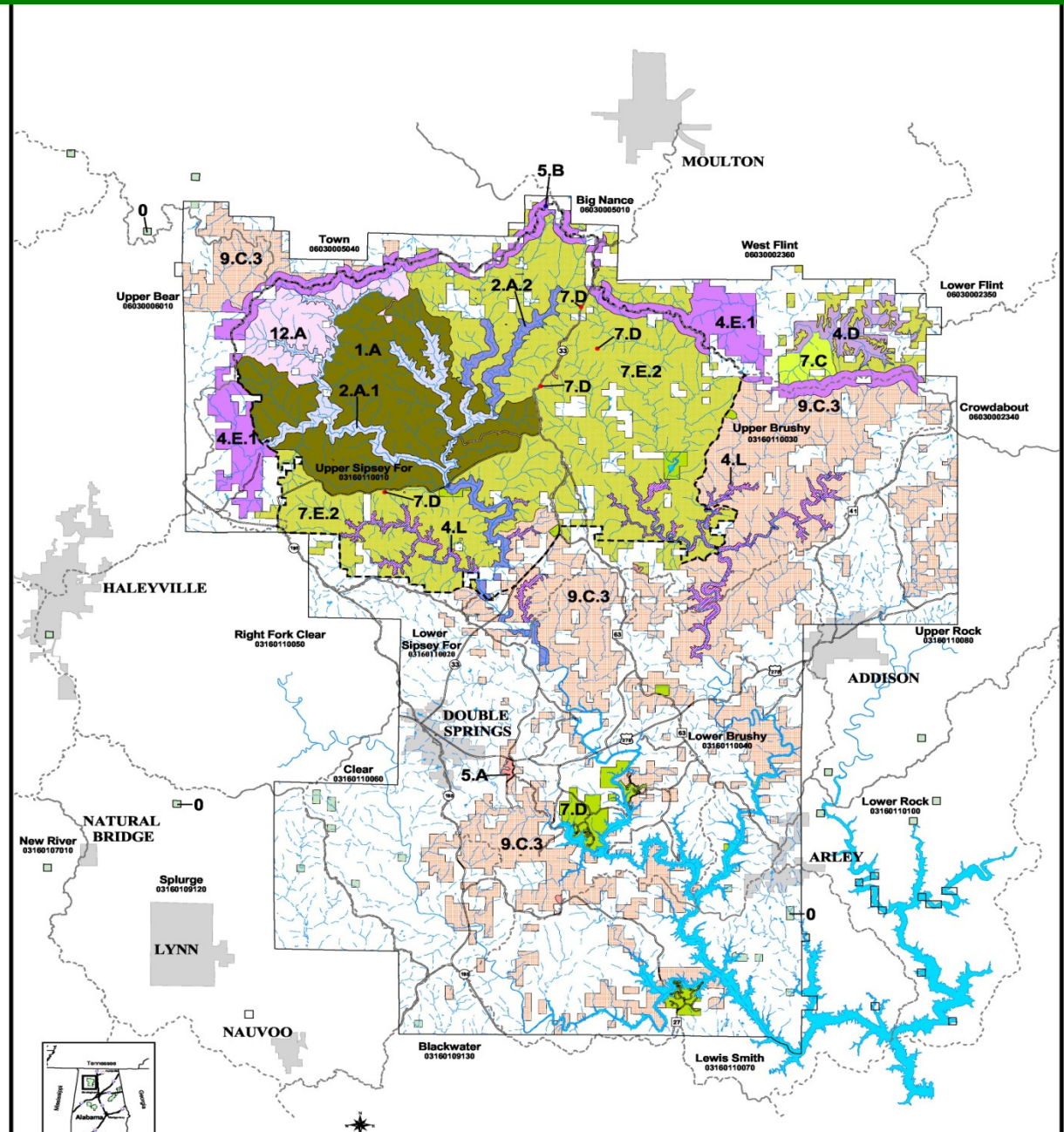


Bankhead National Forest

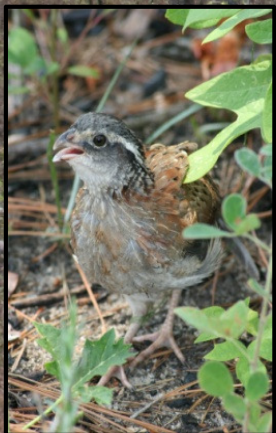
Forest Plan Prescription allocations were made in the Revised Forest Plan, 2004.

Restoration Goals dictate Fire Regimes.

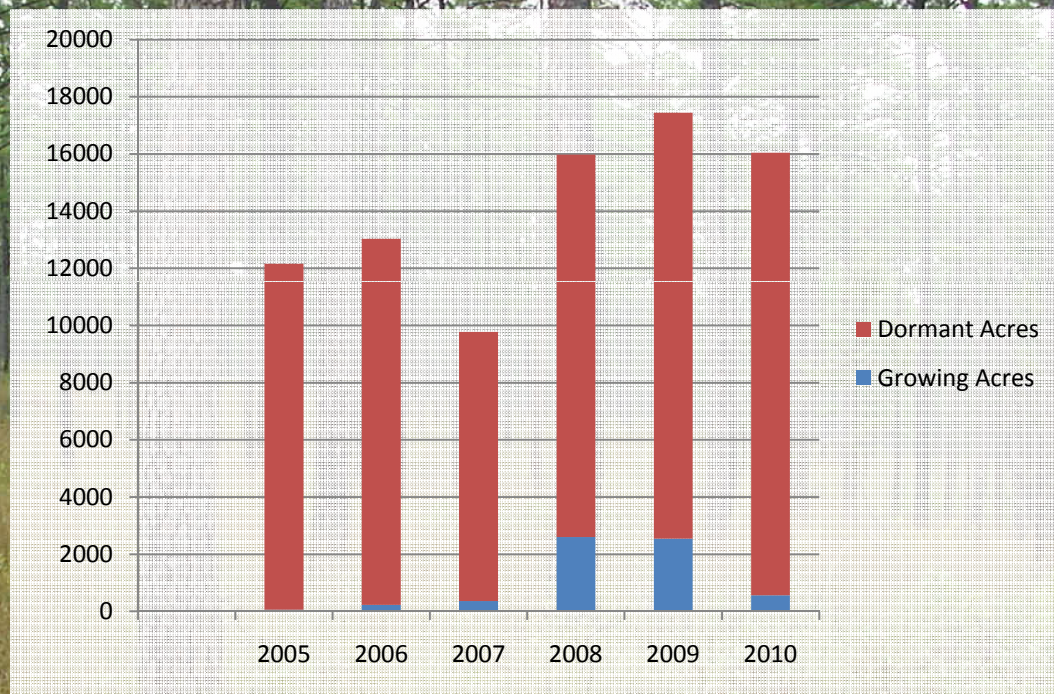
Wildlife populations are a product of the habitat.



Bankhead National Forest



Bankhead National Forest can have open woods



Typical Local Habitat - Pine Forests and Woodlands

Bankhead National Forest can have quail habitat.



Photo by Dagmar Thurmond

CAN YOU FIND THE FLEDGLING BIRD IN
THIS RECENTLY BURNED FOREST?



CAN YOU FIND THE FLEDGLING BIRD IN
THIS RECENTLY BURNED FOREST?



CAN YOU FIND THE FLEDGLING BIRD IN
THIS RECENTLY BURNED FOREST?





Talladega National Forest

- Shoal Creek and Talladega Ranger Districts in NE Alabama and the Mountain Longleaf Ecosystem

Interior-most
population of
RCW

Longleaf at
its highest
elevation



Shoal Creek RD, Talladega National Forest



15750 ac/year ~3-5 year rotation (should be 30-40k/year 2-4 rotation)

Primary objectives

- Reduce fuel loads
- Enhance wildlife habitat- deer, turkey, quail

RCW population 17 active clusters 2010

125 active RCW clusters by ~2050

- Maintain and expand montane longleaf and shortleaf forest savannahs

Year	Dormant	Growing	Sum Ac
2006	4500	6500	11000
2007	2332	6390	8722
2008	7014	8904	15918
2009	3369	16745	20114
2010	11252	2204	13456



Talladega Division, Talladega National Forest



Before GSB



After GSB



Talladega Division, Talladega National Forest

Revised Recovery Plan: Recovery Standard Foraging Acres

- Manage forests to provide a minimum of 120 acres of “good quality foraging habitat,” for each active and recruitment cluster.
- “Good quality foraging habitat” includes tree canopies of 40-60 average BA, and groundcovers that are \geq 40% herbaceous, pyrophytic plants.

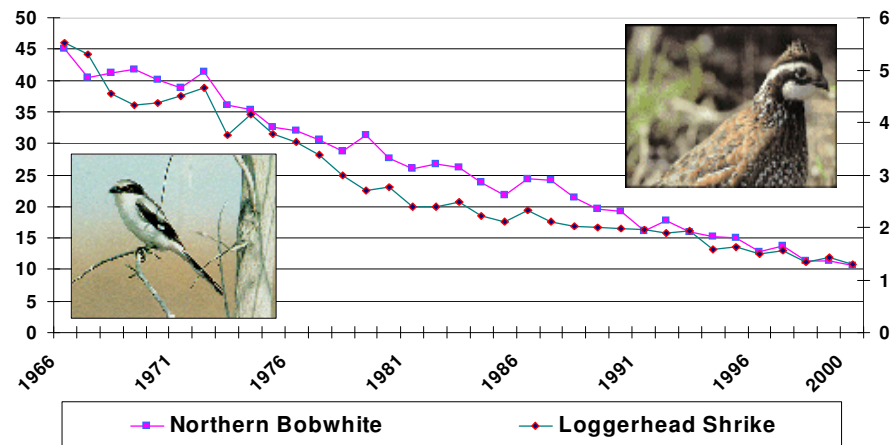


“Good quality foraging habitat”

- ✓ Equals habitat for several migratory bird species.
- ✓ Provides some early successional habitats.
- ✓ Provides a visually pleasing setting for recreation.
- ✓ Encourages a diverse native ground cover.

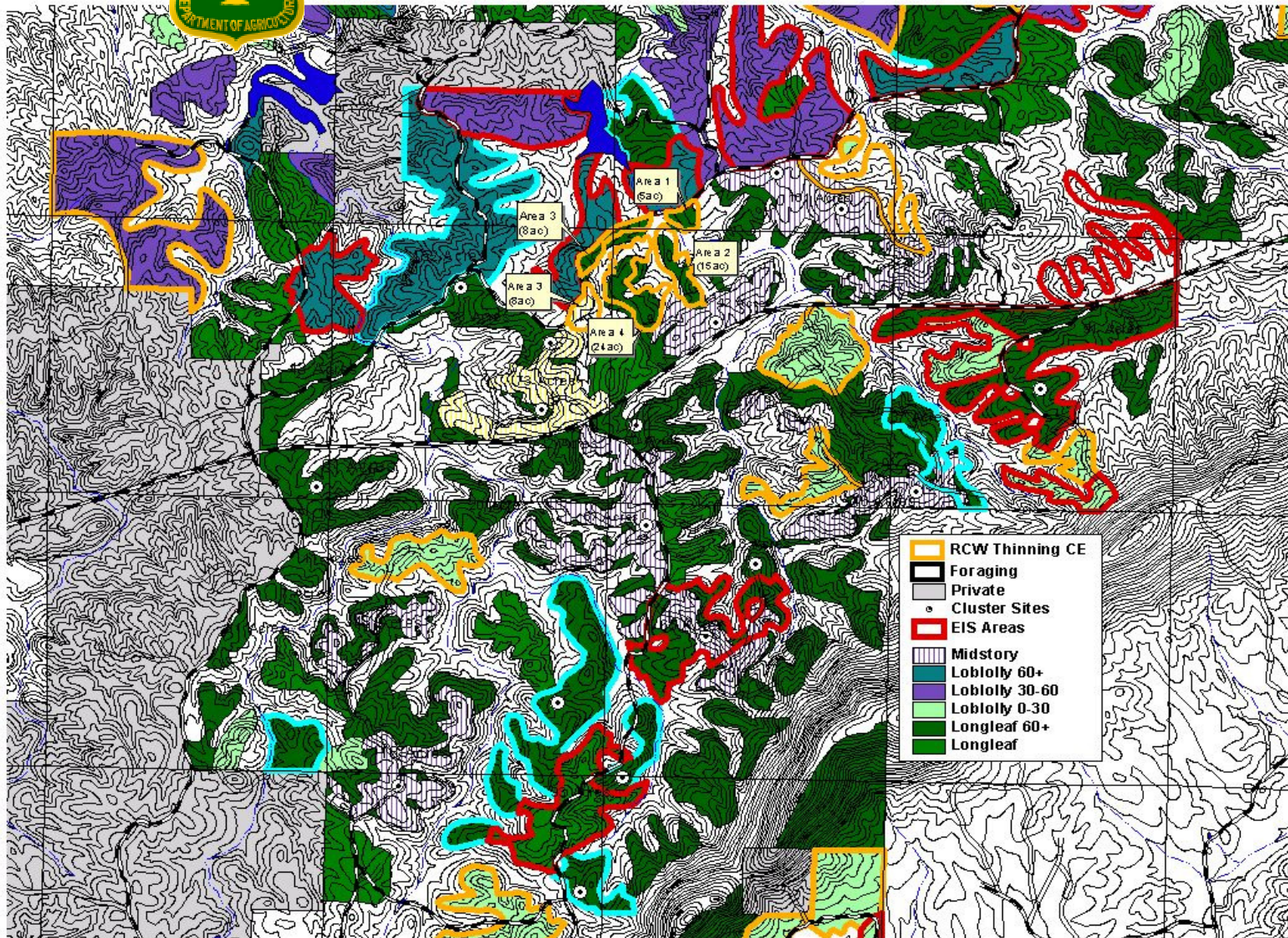


Grassland and Open-woodland bird species declining



- BBS data from 1966 through present analyzed.
- Bird species utilizing native grasslands, old fields, and open-woodlands maintained by fire are recognized to be declining.

Talladega National Forest





Shoal Creek RD, Talladega National Forest

Choccolocco Upland Initiative

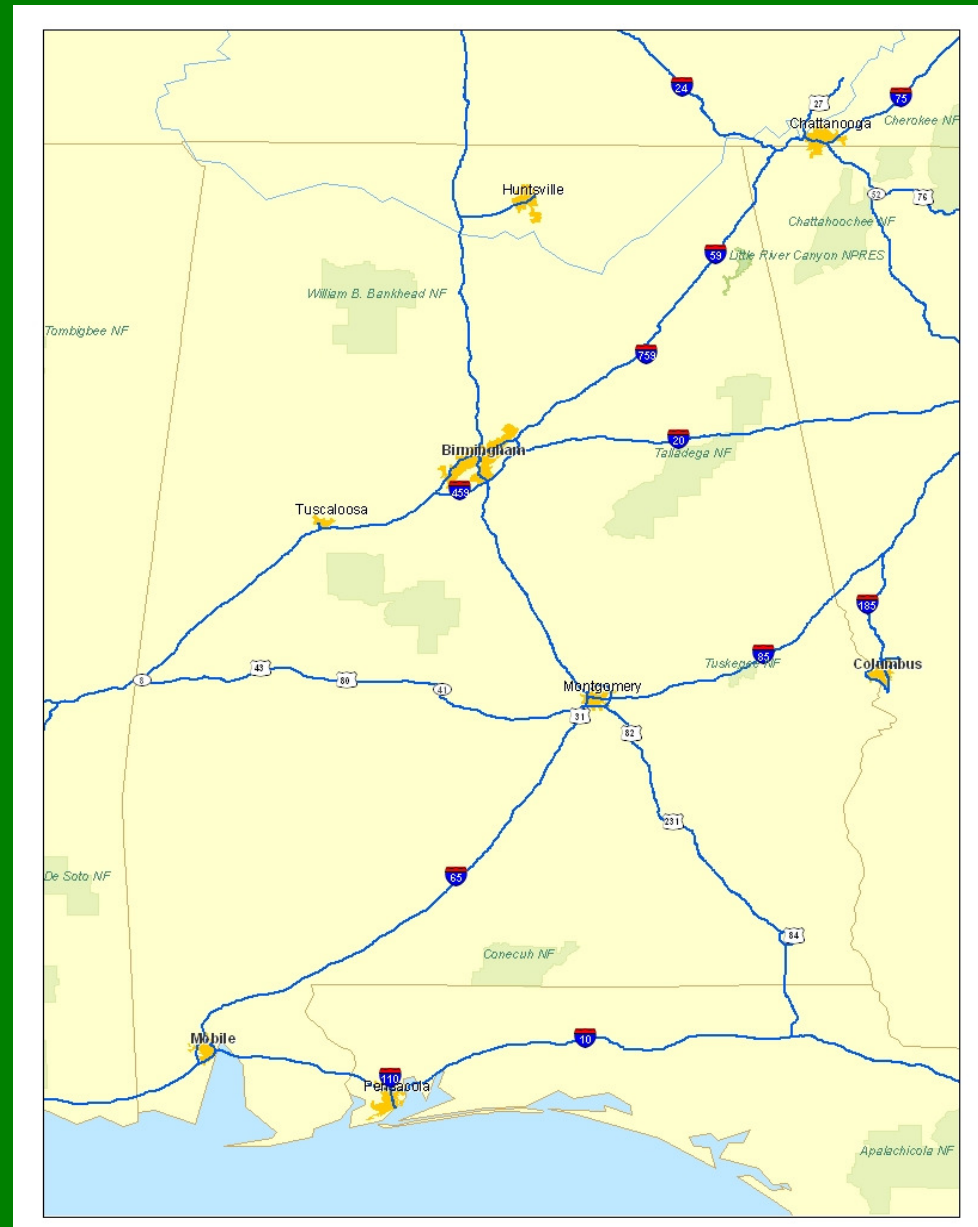
- ❖ Cooperative project with AWFF, QU, Southern Company, NFWF, and FS
- ❖ Restore longleaf woodlands for wildlife thru a variety of treatments (target species-RCW and quail)
- ❖ 980 acres of midstory removal, 5800 acres of growing season burning
- ❖ Covey call survey results-1 covey/38 acres in QEA



Oakmulgee RD, Talladega National Forest



- Roughly 157,000 Acres
- Located in West Central Alabama
- Upper Coastal Plain
- Below the Fall Line, But Ridge Topography Persists
- Forest Types Dominated by Longleaf Pine, Off-Site Loblolly Pine, and Mixed Hardwood





Oakmulgee RD, Talladega National Forest

PRESCRIBED FIRE 5 YEAR TRENDS

- 18,000 Total Ac/Year
- 40% Growing Season
- Hand Ignition From Ridge Tops
- Burn Blocks at
Compartment Level
 - 1000 to 2000 acres





Oakmulgee RD, Talladega National Forest

PRESCRIBED FIRE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- Red Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
- Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction
- Game & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement





Oakmulgee RD, Talladega National Forest

PRESCRIBED FIRE GROWING SEASON BURNING

- Meets Objective of Suppressing Midstory Encroachment in Longleaf Pine Stands
- Necessary to Take Advantage of Available Burn Days
- Conducted at Compartment Scale (1000 – 2000 Acres)
 - Hand Ignition Results in Mosaic Burn Pattern





Oakmulgee RD, Talladega National Forest

Concerns Relative to GSB & Wild Turkey Populations

- Nest Success and Poult Survival Directly Correlated to Habitat Quality
- Necessary to Achieve / Maintain Herbaceous Understory
- Positive Population Effects Outweigh Loss of Individual Nests
- Hand Ignition Mitigates Negative Effects / Results in Mosaic Burn Pattern
- >5% of Land Holdings Burned During the Growing Season Annually





Oakmulgee RD, Talladega National Forest

Concerns Relative to GSB & Wild Turkey Populations

- Oakmulgee WMA Example
 - High Percentage of Growing Season Burning Occurs Within the WMA
 - Oakmulgee WMA Led Alabama WMAs in Turkey Harvest in 2009 and 2010
 - Hunters are Beginning to Ask for Maps of Burn Areas
 - Always consider treatment area – matrix of habitat – species' home range size
 - 157,000 ac in ownership –
 - ~18,000 to burn each year -
 - ~7200 to burn each growing season.



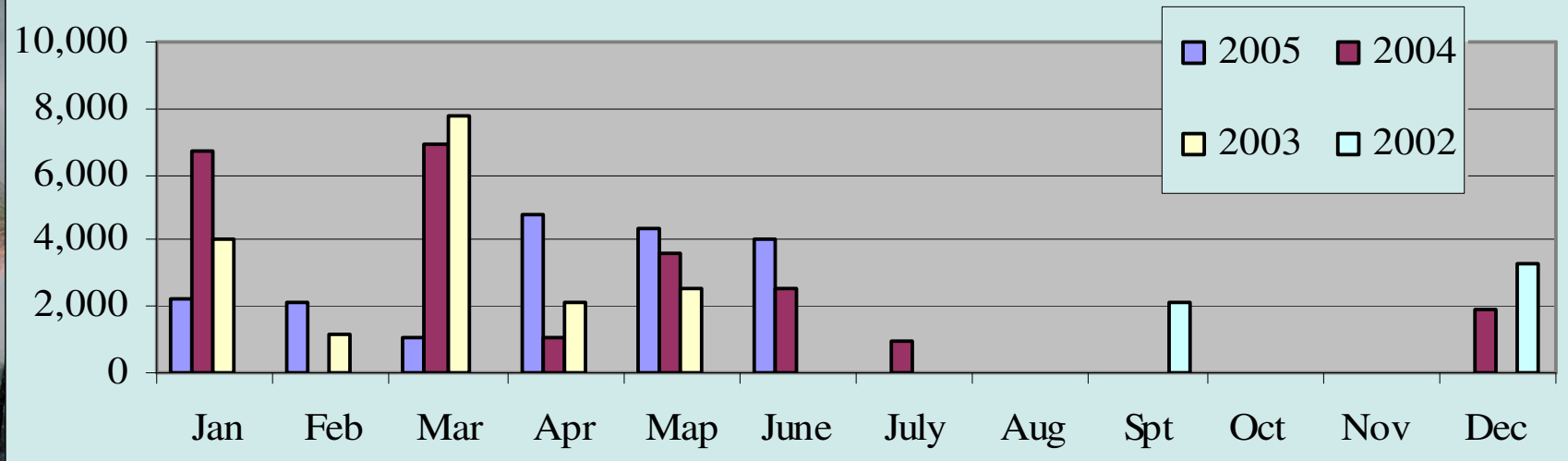
Talladega National Forest – Oakmulgee

Decision: Mimic historic burning regime on 87,000 acres

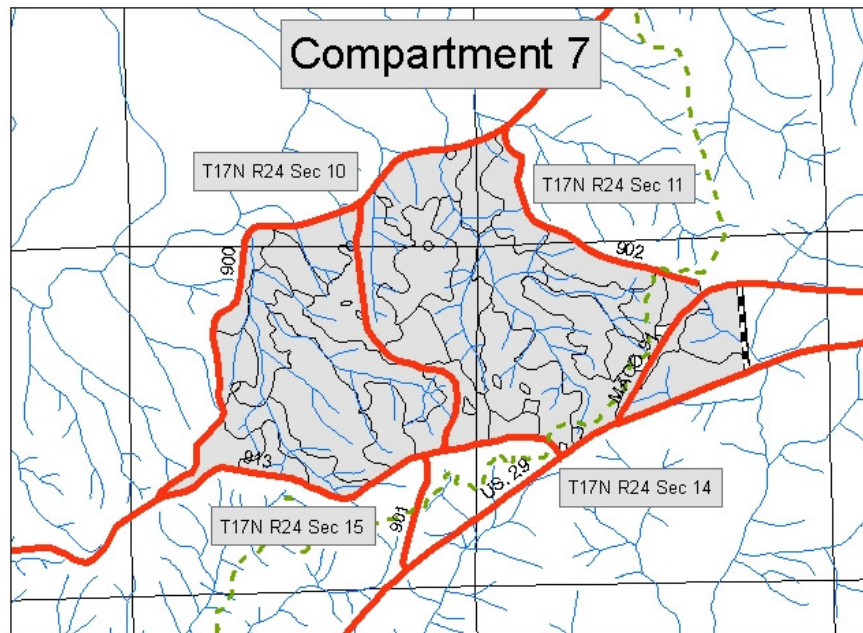
Key steps: 64% of the 05 program in growing season (Apr – Aug)

Milestones to Achieve: Increase acres treated annually to 30,000+

Prescribed Burning Acres by Month

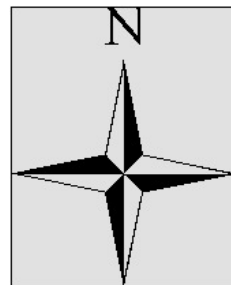
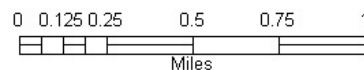


Tuskegee National Forest



Tuskegee National Forest
Compartment 7
Dozer Line Map

4/29/2009 wmh



All prescribed burns attempt to minimize the amount of dozer line; especially new dozer lines.

Tuskegee burns on average 1000 – 3000 acres per year.

Goal: 50:50,
DSB:GSB

Tuskegee National Forest



Tuskegee National Forest



All of Tuskegee's compartments were burned in the last 7 years.

Could RCW's once again call Tuskegee home?

Stands serving multiple wildlife purposes

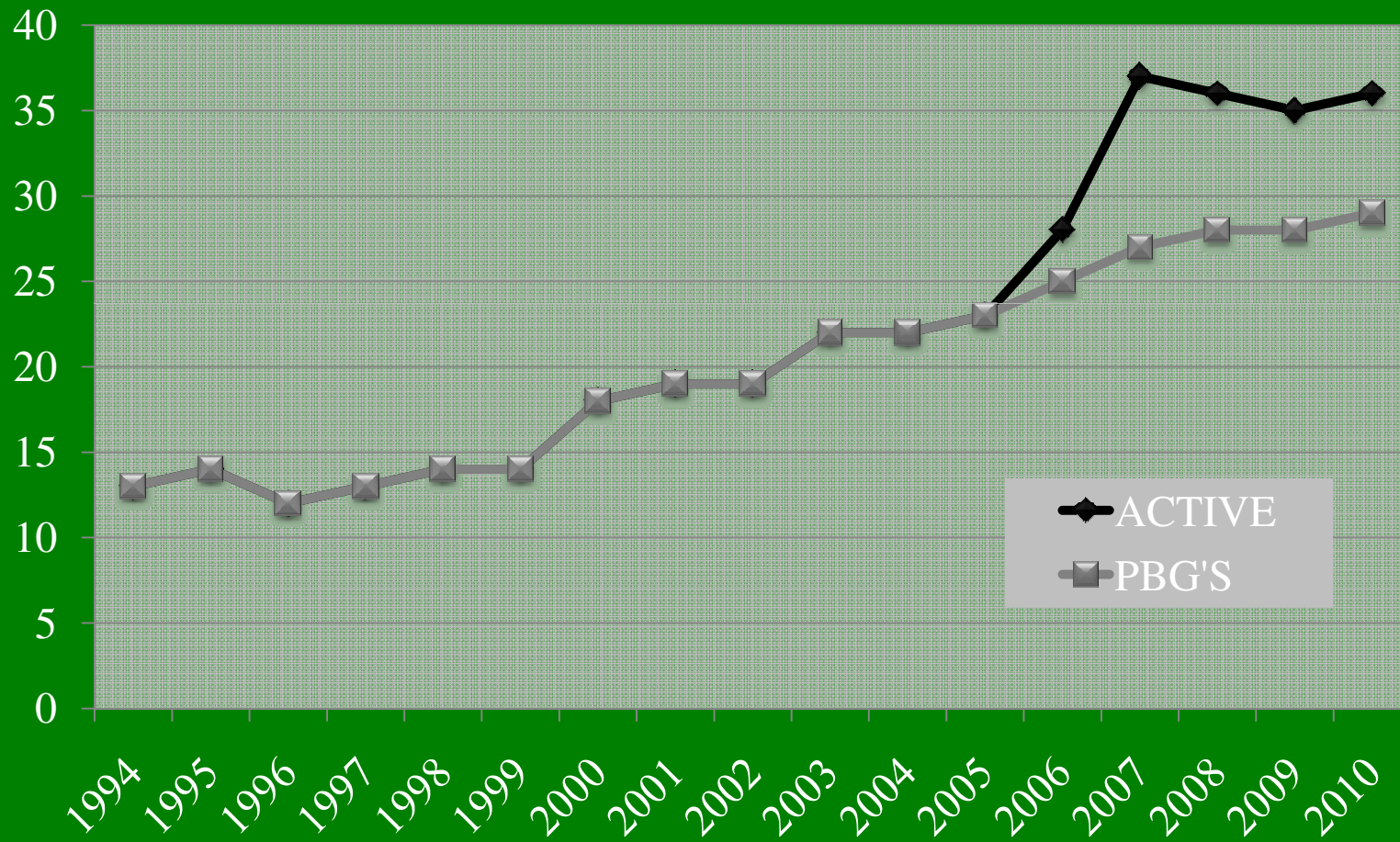


Conecuh National Forest, naturally regenerating stand

Conecuh National Forest



Conecuh National Forest

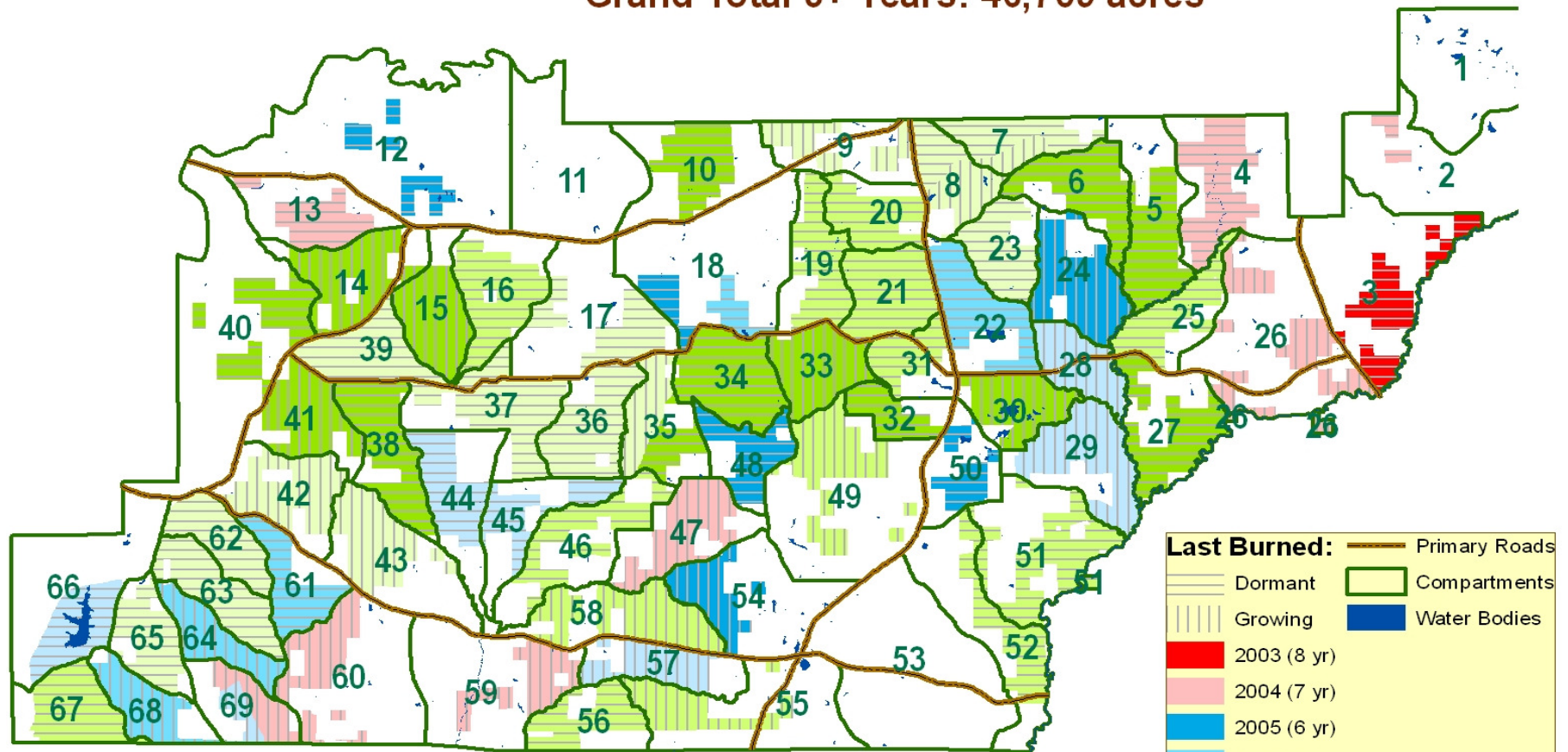


Conecuh National Forest

CNF Fire Management Planning



2011 PBurn Rotations Analysis
Last Year & Season Burned
Grand Total 3+ Years: 46,709 acres



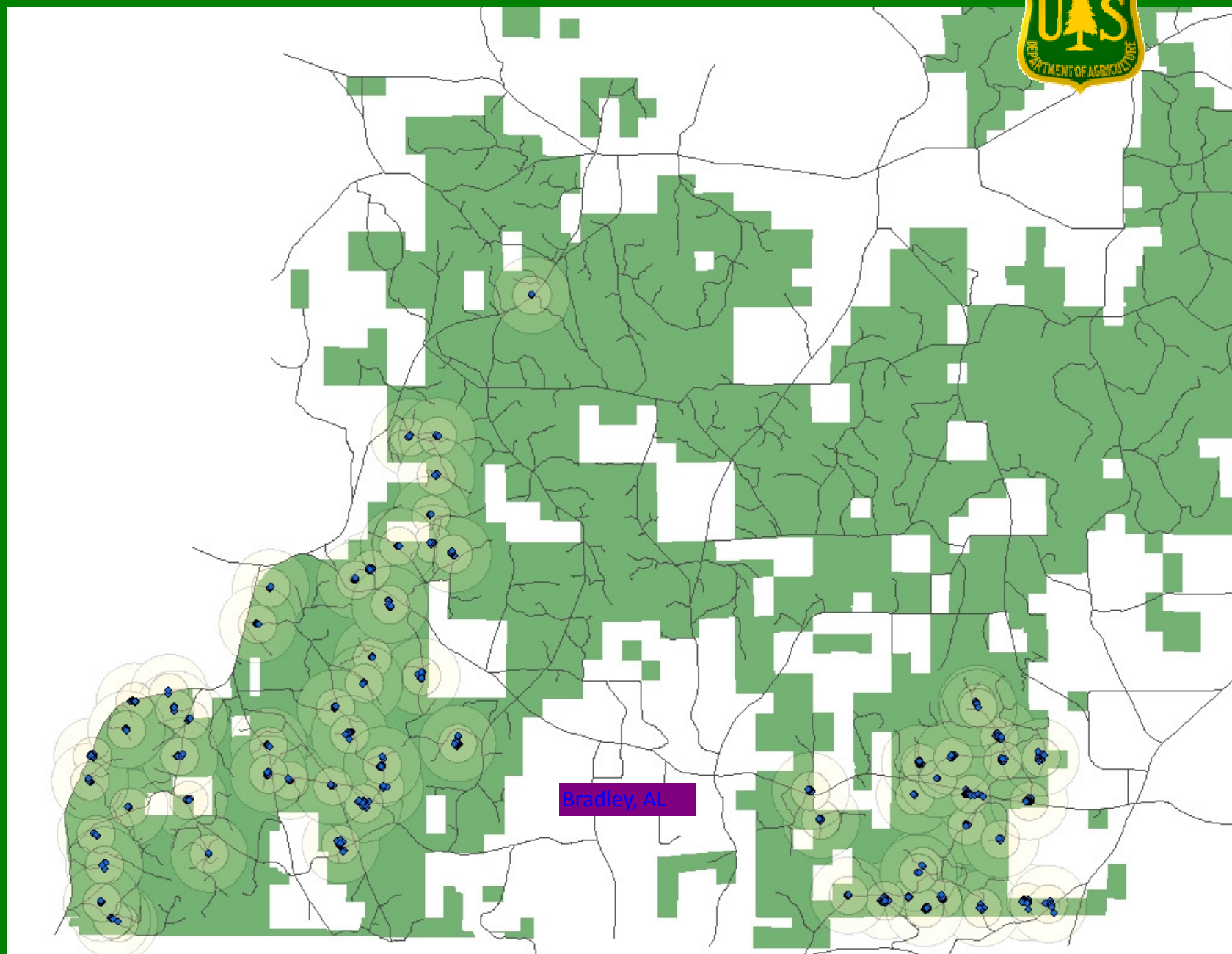
Rotation References:
3 yr rotation = 27,978 ac (28k)
4 yr rotation = 20,984 ac (21k)
5 yr rotation = 16,787 ac (17k)

CNF ID Team Approved
July 29, 2010

Conecuh National Forest



Conecuh National Forest





Bachman's sparrow...



James Tucker and Barry Grand Study on the Conecuh

Conecuh National Forest



from off-site slash
pine thickets like this

Restoring Longleaf

to historically native
longleaf with
herbaceous
understory





National Forests in Alabama



Conecuh National Forest

Diverse native groundcovers provide great habitats for many limited and demanded species!



Turkey Habitats are Improved

- Nest Predators are no longer favored
- Bugging Grounds are improved



RESTORING NATIVE COMMUNITIES



Longleaf Pine Woodland



Pine Oak Woodland



Prescribed Fire



Planting



Thinning

OUR TOOLS TO A HEALTHY FOREST

- Restore open woodlands
- Restore native fire regimes
- Restore native species



NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

Supervisor's Office - 334-832-4470

Bankhead National Forest - 205-489-5111

Conecuh National Forest - 334-222-2555

Talladega National Forest

Shoal Creek District - 256-463-2273

Talladega District - 256-362-2909

Oakmulgee District - 205-926-9765

Tuskegee National Forest - 334-727-2652

www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/alabama

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